request you to see whether it is not the duty of the Municipal Council to remedy these defects and to place before the Government constructive and practical schemes and then seek for Government help. Last year, I requested the members who represented the Trivandrum Municipal Council in this Assembly to do something like that. I told them that I was ready to meet them and that I was ready to go out with them and then to inspect and discuss municipal matters with them for the purpose of evolving something practicable out of them. I do not think we gain very much by your repeatedly pointing out the needs of the town and saying that Government must spend more money. The Trivandrum Municipality is receiving special treatment at the hands of the Government, so much so that the special treatment given to it has been a sore point with other Municipalities in the State. Government are, as far as funds permit, doing a good deal for the Trivandrum town. Government are maintaining the town roads, lighting the town, and are attending to the drains, and Government are also doing a number of other things for Trivandrum which they are not doing for mofussil Municipalities. It behoves the Trivandrum Municipal Council therefore to see how far they can take the Government with them in the matter of town improvement, relief of congestion, water-supply and drainage, and other crying needs of the town.

In regard to the question of the non-official Chairman, I must say that Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has not put the question fairly before the Assembly. Government have already told the Municipal Council that they are prepared to give them the privilege of electing their own non-official president, subject to one condition, *viz.*, that the executive head of this most important Municipality, the premier Municipality of the State, should be a responsible official of the rank of a Peishkar, in the same way as the executive heads of Municipalities of similar importance elsewhere in India are. Subject to that one condition, Government said that they were prepared to give the Trivandrum Municipality the right to elect their own non-official President. Government have not yet had a direct reply to that.

Mr. N. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.—The present Municipal Regulation, V of 1095, is not based on the Madras City Municipality Act.

Dewan.—It is based neither on the City Municipality Act nor on the District Municipalities Act.

Mr. N. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.—In the District Municipalities Act, we do not find a provision for an executive head of the status suggested by Government. We want our Regulation to be amended on the lines of that Act. A thorough revision of the Regulation as suggested by the Government would take a lot of time and meanwhile Government might give us the right to elect our own Chairman. That is all my suggestion.

Dewan.—The amendment of the Regulation in this one respect, even granting that an amendment is necessary, is not a matter which need take a long time. At the most, it will take three or four months, but the matter has been pending for the last two years.

92. Needs of the Attingal town with special reference to water-supply and poramboke.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Attingal) began by referring to the chief roads and lanes of the local Municipality and pointed out that the widening, especially of the latter, was essential in the interests of trade and sanitation in the town. He also said that his Municipality widened about 5 or 6 lanes in the town, and that the further activity of the Council in that direction was checked by various obstacles. He spoke of the numerous encroachments on the roads and lanes of the town, and gave many instances of the same. He then referred to the tanks in the town, and quoted several instances of encroachments thereon by adjoining land-owners. He also pointed out that the local tanks were in a neglected condition, and that, if they could be improved, they would prove to be of great help to the people and cattle in the town. He instanced the Matankulam, Patrakkulam, Vayalkulam, Tottukulam, Attakkulam, etc., as standing in need of immediate restoration. The

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Member specially requested that the land records maintenance officers might be instructed to measure out and define the limits of the roads, lanes and tanks of the Municipality.

It was his impression that many of those lanes could easily be widened and made cartable without the acquisition of adjoining lands. Speaking of the roads he also complained that Attingal was a snake-infested locality and suggested that the danger could be greatly minimised by removing the hedgerows and shrubbery on either side of the roads. He requested that the D. P. W. might be instructed to do the needful in that direction also.

In conclusion, he requested that the Government might be pleased to place all the *porambokes* in the town at the disposal of the Council, as those areas which were now serving no useful purpose would, if handed over to the Council, prove to be a source of permanent income to the Council.

Dewan's reply.—The condition of the sides of the roads in your town will engage the attention of the Chief Engineer.

In regard to encroachments, I am led to think, from what you say, that your town is full of encroachments. There is an Assistant Tahsildar for the Chirayinkil taluk who has his head-quarters at Attingal. I inspected some of his land records work in the back-waters at Chirayinkil. If you had told me about the encroachments within the town when I was at Attingal last, I could have seen some of them myself. However, I will ask the Land Revenue Commissioner to instruct the Assistant Tahsildar to inspect these encroachments and take prompt action.

93. Wants of the town of Shencottah.

Mr. K. Sankaranarayana Aiyer B. A. (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) began by referring to G. O. No. 372/L. R., dated the 31st July, 1918, under which the resurvey of the town was allowed to lie over and also to the various inconveniences experienced by the Municipal Council for want of a correct survey of the town. He requested that orders might be issued for the work being taken up early next year as the cost would not exceed Rs. 2,000.

The Member drew the attention of the Government to the existence of a duplicate system of standard dry measure at Shencottah under the Weights and Measures Regulation, *viz.*, the *para*, *edangali*, and its subdivisions, side by side with the Madras *padi* and its subdivisions, and the consequent inconvenience to the public. He suggested two remedies, *viz.*, either the adoption of the Madras *padi* and *marakal* as the standard dry measure in Shencottah as advocated by Mr. S. Subramhanya Karayalar at the last session of the Assembly, or the retention of the old *marakal*, *padi*, etc., and its subdivisions as in Nanjanad, their values according to the recognised standard measure being impressed on them.

He next spoke about the local Village Panchayat court. He admitted that people had nothing to complain about the institution of that court but only in respect of its constitution. As it was constituted at present on a communal basis, the court was only a source of trouble and inconvenience to the people, and consequently he was of the opinion that, if proper men were not available for doing honorary work, Government would do well to abolish the institution altogether. At present the court was composed of two Vakils, a contractor and two medical practitioners. He also mentioned that there was no necessity for a Village Panchayat court after the establishment of a separate Munsiff's court at Shencottah. He then objected to the practice of levying institution fees in the Village Panchayat court as being opposed to the clear provision of law on the subject. Another illegality to which the Member referred related to the imposition of a court fee stamp of half a rupee on applications for the execution of decrees presented before that court. He observed that, if Government insisted on the continuance of the court, some remedy had to be found for obviating the necessity for the frequent adjournments of its sittings for want of a quorum. He suggested that either the quorum might be reduced to two or the present strength be increased by the addition of one or two more judges. In conclusion, the Member referred to the order of the Government of Madras, Law, General Department, 90-174 dated

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